

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 87

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to honor and thank Ellen Tewes for her long and faithful service to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the members of this Body wish to thank Ellen Claire Tewes, formerly Director of the Office of Legal Services, for more than thirty-two years of diligence and dedication in service of the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Ellen attended The Ohio State University as an undergraduate and subsequently earned her J.D. degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, on September 1, 1976, Ellen Tewes joined the staff of the antediluvian Legislative Council, and within a year, this bright and eager young attorney became an employee of the newly formed Office of Legal Services as a result of legislative reorganization; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious career with the General Assembly, Ms. Tewes earned the trust, respect, and admiration of her colleagues and legislators alike for her excellent work with the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee under the leadership of Chairman John Bragg and Vice Chairman Shelby Rhinehart; and

WHEREAS, Ellen exhibited a fine legal mind, good common sense, and a knack for consensus building during her outstanding tenure with the House Finance Committee, and she developed extensive knowledge about budgetary and fiscal matters in her role as the committee's attorney; and

WHEREAS, she also served with distinction as Speaker Jimmy Naifeh's trusted attorney for many years; and

WHEREAS, with the retirement of the Honorable James A. Clodfelter, Esquire, Ellen Tewes confidently assumed the reins of leadership as Director of the Office of Legal Services on October 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS, in her new role as Director, Ms. Tewes relied upon the same legislative acumen, sound judgment, and interpersonal skills that had always served her so well, and she helped mold the Office of Legal Services into an even more cohesive and productive group; and

WHEREAS, Ellen Tewes retired from the General Assembly on January 31, 2009, after more than nine outstanding years as Director of the Office of Legal Services, leaving behind an enduring legacy of dedication, loyalty, integrity, and compassion for her many friends and colleagues on Capitol Hill; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and most sincerely thank Ellen Tewes for more than thirty-two years of loyal and proficient service to this Body, first as a legislative attorney and then as the Director of the Office of Legal Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Ellen our best wishes for every future success and happiness as she enjoys the fruits of her labor by pursuing her many hobbies and interests, including the exploits of Coach Pat Summit and the University of Tennessee Lady Vols.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.